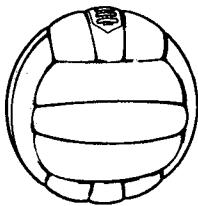


# SOCCKER NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
VICTORIAN SOCCER FEDERATION

Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission by post as a newspaper

## SOUVENIR ISSUE

# WELCOME WALES



*It's a goal! In fact it is one of three that the English FA scored against Victoria at Olympic Park recently when the state side went down fighting 3-1 to the tourists. Here Victorian goalie Mike Kovacek tries in vain to stop the shot as Bob Dobbing (Melbourne) and Fabian Juhasz (Melbourne) watch the outcome.*

## 'We look forward to a great game'

Sir David Hill-Wood, president of the Victorian Soccer Federation, on behalf of all soccer followers, welcomes the Welsh F.A. to Victoria in this special message:

"It is with great pleasure I welcome the Welsh Football Association here to Victoria, particularly as it will be their only game in Australia.

"To play here they will have had to come a long way for this single purpose and they are due for

particular thanks from ourselves.

"The team is full of under 23 Internationals together with a few full Internationals which will make them a fine combination.

"I have seen them in the past and admire the wonderful fervor the Welsh put into their

play which always makes them a great attraction on the field.

"We all look forward to a great game and warn our visitors that Victoria's team is eagerly awaiting the opportunity to further enhance themselves against a International side."



SIR DAVID HILL-WOOD, President Victorian Soccer Federation.

### \$100,000 for J.U.S.T. club

Footscray council has decided to allocate \$100,000 on the next loan schedule for the Footscray-JUST Soccer Club.

The council agreed last November to ask the State treasury for permission to borrow the money for the club.

It is believed the club wants to establish a new ground and grandstand at McIvor Reserve, Kingsville. Its present ground is at Schintler Reserve, Footscray Road.

by JIM COOK

Victoria, like other States of Australia and also the national team, have yet to defeat a British club or representative side but their best chance ever is today when they line-up against the Welsh Football Association at Olympic Park.

For most of the Welsh side is drawn from the minor divisions of the English League and this brings our standard a bit nearer to the opposition we meet on this occasion than has happened in the past against sides like Hearts, Blackpool, Everton, Manchester United and Manchester City.

The breakdown of the Wales squad is:-

One player is on the books of a first division side.

Two from the ranks of two second division sides.

Ten from teams who compete in the third division and

Three from the basement fourth division.

But don't be fooled because the majority are gathered together from lesser known clubs.

### DEDICATED

The players are all highly skilled and dedicated professionals who are bent not only on winning for Wales but fired with ambition to make the top grade in British soccer and also gain full international ranking for their country.

Off the field the "Taffies" have one of the most formidable line-ups ever to accompany a side from the U.K.

For they are managed, trained, coached and guided by a trio of former top class players who now rank high with different clubs and organisations.

Dave Bowen, Terry Medwin and Trevor Morris.

In this aspect alone they have a temendous pull over the locals.

For various reasons in recent years Victoria has not been able to field its best team against touring sides.

### INJURED

And this occasion will be no exception since they will be without ace Melbourne defender, 21 year-old Bob Dobbing, who received a double fracture of the ankle in a recent match against Juventus.

But selectors should fill the gap adequately by giving long overdue recognition to Steve Walker, of South Melbourne Hellas.

With brilliant Croatia and Australian linkman Jim McKay, almost certain to return after injury with the return of Alistair Scott, of Melbourne, and the inclusion of Dan Zoraja, of Footscray JUST, who is the State League's top scorer plus the possibility that up-and-coming JUST

Milisavlevic, Juhasz, Scott, Lopatic, Walker, Irvine, Wallace, Zoraja, Vojtek, Bleskany.

It can't be emphasised too strongly that only a 100 per cent effort by every player for the full 90 minutes is a must.

And outsize vocal support for the locals, so seldom in evidence in Australia, can drive the team on to greater achievements.

This will be the opportunity for Wales in Australia so with the right nod from the weather man let's give them a real welcome by turning up in force.

For it's possible that Victoria can create soccer history in Australia by being the first side to beat a team from the U.K.

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# Meet our visitors - the Red Dragons

## MIKE WALKER

**WATFORD — GOALKEEPER** — Made several appearances at under 23 level and has had the unique distinction of being called into the Wales under-23 squad at the age of 24. This was at Bristol a couple of years ago when Wales were so short of established 'keepers' because of injuries etc. Sir Alf Ramsey allowed Wales to call on Walker. As it turned out Walker was not called up to play as Brian Lloyd came through the match without injury.

## BRIAN LLOYD

**SOUTHEND UNITED — GOALKEEPER** — Played for Rhyl and Stockport before being signed by Southend. Strong fearless keeper with a safe pair of hands. Appeared for Wales at Under 23 level against Scotland and England.

## PHIL ROBERTS

**BRISTOL ROVERS** — A Cardiff-born player whose potential was spotted by Rovers before his home club. Began as a wing half and took to the full back position when his club had difficulties there. An immediate success he has already won Welsh under-23 honours against Scotland at Swansea in January, and is being watched by several of the bigger clubs who like his direct, aggressive style.

## NIGEL EDWARDS

**CHESTER** — Just 20. Promising young full back who gained Youth International Caps against England, Scotland and Ireland. Has attracted the attention of the leading English clubs.

## RAY MIELCZAREK

**ROTHERHAM UNITED** — Son of a Polish Army Officer who settled in Wales after World War 2. Played for Wrexham before being transferred to Huddersfield Town with whom he

was capped at under-23 level. Laid low by injury for much of last season but is fully back to form again and doing well for his new club Rotherham. Hard-tackling centre half who is exceptionally good in the air. Gained his first full international cap against Finland at Helsinki, in May this year, and gave an outstanding performance.

## GARETH DAVIS

**WREXHAM** — Capped at under-23 level and a member of the squad which travelled to Finland for the European Championship match. Davis is another exceptionally strong tackler who has had much to do with Wrexham's run of successes in the past two seasons. Was brought into the Wrexham side as replacement for senior international Dave Powell when he was transferred to Sheffield United, now looks like following Powell into the Welsh side as well.

## FRANK PRICE

**BRISTOL ROVERS** — A fine back four player also plays at inside forward. Another highly promising product from the Cardiff area to be spotted by Rovers Welsh scout and sent across the Severn. Capped at under-23 level in season 1970-71 against Scotland at Swansea.

## JEFF THOMAS

**WAYNE JONES** — **BRISTOL ROVERS** — Born at Treorchy in the Rhondda Valley and yet another of Rovers' Welsh colony. Has been a regular member of Wales' under-23 squad and is now seeking to establish himself in the senior side. Won his first full International Cap against Finland in Helsinki, in May, this year.

## DAVID GWYTHER

**CHARLTON ATHLETIC** — Under-23 International who played a leading role in Wales 1-0 win against Scotland at Swansea and a 0-0 draw game against England, at

Wrexham. Born Swansea. Has twice been given free transfers — first by Swansea, then Carlisle before fighting his way back to the front with a non-league club Yeovil. Charlton signed him from them and, at last seems to have found his right niche with them. An industrious non-stop player who thrives on hard work.

## BRIAN EVANS

**SWANSEA CITY** — Speedy, elusive winger who has sparkled for the last six seasons for Swansea, gained several under-23 caps for Wales and is now on the brink of his first senior International appearance. Played in Swansea team that reached the semi-final of the F.A. Cup in 1963.

## ARFON GRIFFITHS

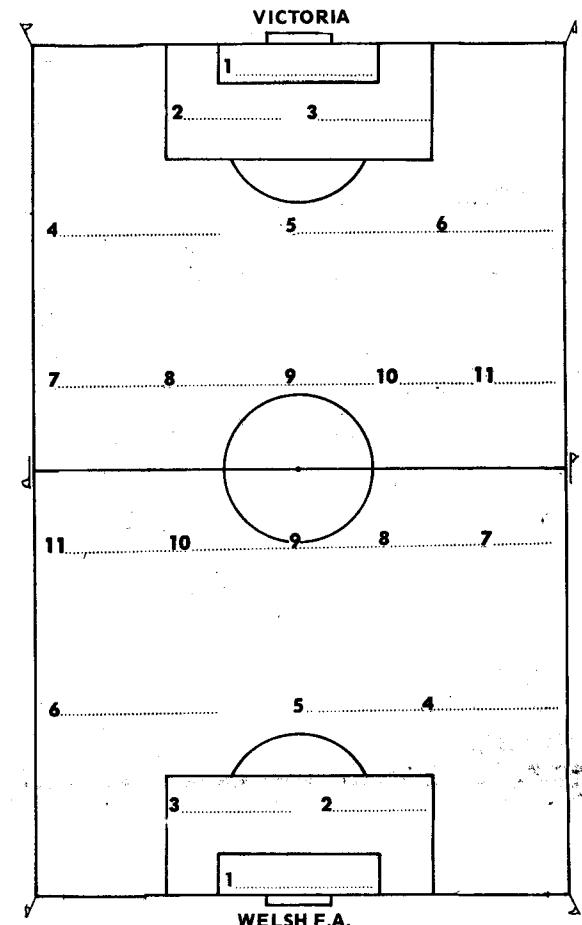
**WREXHAM** — Skilful, intelligent forward who likes to make his influence felt from midfield but also ghosts his way into scoring positions when least expected. First senior cap against Czechoslovakia last April — nine years after he made his first under-23 appearance for Wales. Has always been a Wrexham player except for one brief spell with Arsenal at Highbury where things didn't work out for him. Born Wrexham.

## TONY SCREEN

**SWANSEA CITY** — A skilful full back who made one of the briefest appearances ever in an under-23 International match when at the Vetch Field, Swansea, last January came on in the last minute of the game as a replacement for the injured Steve Derrett and never kicked the ball. Gained Youth honours for Wales against the Republic of Ireland (2) and England (2).

The composition of the Welsh Squad is composed mainly of their successful under-23 International team which it is expected to form the basis of their 1974 World Cup team.

Tour officials are: Hon. Treasurer — Mr. L. Withers, Mr. I. C. Pursey. Tour Manager — Mr. T. Morris (Secretary of the Welsh F.A.). Hon. Medical Officer: Dr. W. Hughes. Team Manager — Mr. D. L. Bowen. Trainer — Mr. T. C. Medwin.



## WELSH F.A.

# Enter your teams here

## VICTORIA

Mike Kovacek  
Jim Milisavljevic  
Sandy Irvine  
Bill McGowan  
Marjan Lopotic  
Alistair Scott  
Fabian Juhasz  
Joe Szabo  
Eddy Marmur  
Anton Kusilek

## WELSH F.A.

Mike Walker  
Phil Roberts  
Ray Mielczarek  
Gareth Davies

Frank Prince  
Jeff Thomas  
Wayne Jones  
Cyril Davies  
Afon Griffiths  
David Gwyther  
Brian Evans  
Brian Lloyd  
Clive Slattery  
Colin Randell  
Nigel Edwards  
Geoff Thomas

## TRAINER-COACH

**TERRY MEDWIN** — An ex-Welsh International who played for his native Swansea Town and then the mighty Tottenham Hotspur. A member of the great Spurs team that achieved the "double" — winning the Football League Championship and the F.A. Cup. Now trainer-coach to Fulham who,

under his guidance have just gained promotion to the Second Division. Qualified coach capable of getting the best from his players.

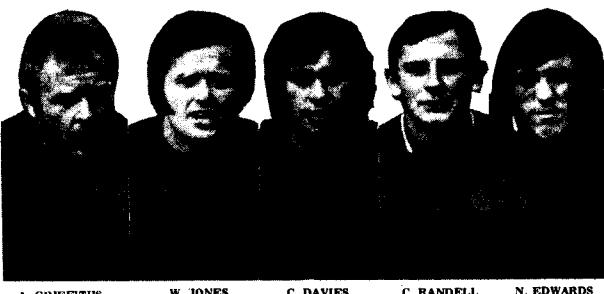
## SECRETARY AND TOUR MANAGER

**TREVOR MORRIS** — Newly appointed secretary to the Football Association of Wales. Previously secretary and

Manager of Cardiff City. General Manager of Swansea City and Newport County. Played with Ipswich Town and Cardiff City but injury brought his playing days to a premature close. Served in Bomber Command during the war in a mixed New Zealand Squadron. Holder of the Distinguished Flying Medal.

## TEAM MANAGER

**DAVE BOWEN** — Couples the team management of the Welsh National team with his full time duties as manager of Northampton Town. Led his club from the Fourth to the First Division of the Football League. An outstanding wing half in his day, he captained both Arsenal and Wales. Has refused many offers to manage clubs in the First Division of the Football League. Shrewd tactician with the happy knack of inspiring confidence in his players.



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# State League is warming up

By Jim Cook

With the State League program well past the half-way mark, here is how I rate the clubs and their achievements to date and how I reckon they'll fare in the remaining games to be played this season.

## FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T.

A crushing defeat by Melbourne has been the only real blot on their copy-book and with a well-equipped side who place the emphasis on attacking soccer they fully deserve their position as league leaders.

Special mention must be made of goal grabbing aces Dan Zoraja and Branko Buljevic and particularly the former.

Only an over casual approach and complacency plus a tendency for their defence to sometimes play it wide and open will rob them of the necessary points to win the title.

Coach: Milenko Ruzmir.

## MELBOURNE

Despite the loss through transfer of Billy Rogers, Ray Pocock and Steve Keri they have plugged the gaps well and answered some critics who earlier in the season were ready to 'write them off.'

Fitness, dedication and teamwork appear to have been mainly instrumental in their success and although they may not be a glamour side their effectiveness as a unit cannot be questioned.

Unless they slump badly and there is no indication they will, a place in the Final Four seems likely. Whether they can lay claims to the title they won for the first time in 1967 will depend on how JUST and perhaps Croatia fare.

Coach: Ken Kontra.

## CROATIA

Bogged down with injuries and particularly that of Jim Mackay, this is the side I rate as posing the biggest threat to JUST. That is, of course, providing they get back to full strength quickly.

Compact, confident in both defence and attack, they have done well under the pressing circumstances and at their best they can match any side probably in Australia as was partly evidenced when they won the Inter-City Ampol Cup earlier this year.

Shortcomings on occasions are cockiness and over confidence — not really bad points in a good side.

Coach: Vic Janczyk.

## S.M. HELLAS

After an auspicious start, defeats by Polonia and Melbourne knocked them off their pedestal and many were prepared to dismiss the side which has not won the title since their triple successes of 1964-65-66.

However, Hellas have bounced back and now look more confident and certainly look more consistent than they have been for a long time.

They must continue to rely on goalgrabber Jim Armstrong and if the former Hakoah forward retains his scoring touch the Greek-sponsored side with the British look could be well in the reckoning at the finish.

Coach: Lou Brocic.

## POLONIA

One of the surprise and shock sides of the first six or seven rounds when they accounted for S.M. Hellas, Juventus and Croatia and before they suffered a crushing 6-0 defeat from Hakoah.

Never seem to have recovered from this drubbing and look to be on the wane.

Appear to have too few experienced players among a side which is mainly comprised of youngsters and this has been in evidence when Davie Closs has been out of the team through injury.

However, they still look much better than quite a few other sides and unless they go to the pack they should find their name in the hat for the Ampol Cup.

Coach: Kaz Kowalec.

## JUVENTUS

Inconsistency and failure of their forwards to finish on a bright note has almost certainly cost them the chance of retaining the title.

And they could be hard pushed even with a determined and more successful run home to grab a place in the final four and give them a chance to play in the State League Cup which they also won last year.

The departure of George Kimbell and to a lesser extent Jack Reilly who both were transferred to Sydney sides, hardly enhanced their prospects of repeating last year's "grand slam". But Juventus have still

enough good players left in their ranks to do better than they have done.

Coach: Tony Boggio.

## HAKOAH

Collecting only three points from their first six games placed them in jeopardy but grabbing seven points from their next five outings gave them a big lift to safety.

This of course spells inconsistency for a team which seldom rings the changes and which relies a lot on a stout hearted defence and goals collector — Mike Clarey.

A modest side, they won't be sorely pushed to keep well away from the bottom, they are a side no opposition can treat lightly and if they maintain their recent improvement a place in the night soccer looks possible.

Player-coach: Johnny Anderson.

## GEORGE CROSS

Bogged down right from the opening game with a five-player rebellion which was not resolved until after the seventh round with the return of Luther Kastener, John Gardiner and Kevin Walker, they have improved after strutting for so long.

The quick exit from the Dockerty Cup at the expense of Alexander means they can now concentrate solely on improving their league position and this I feel they'll do by reaching a half-way spot on the league ladder by the end of the season.

Player-coach: Johnny Sanchez.

## RINGWOOD CITY

### - WILHELMINA

From a middle-of-the-table side, at the end of last season to be well down in the basement, is a real slump. And this can be partly attributed to the fact they lost their sole striker — Wim Spiekerman whom they transferred to Sydney.

The proof of this is in the pudding — for they

only managed to find the net four times in their

first nine outings.

But the Ringwood side with several good class signings recently are set to stage a revival and should do much better in the rest of the matches they have left to play.

Coach: Sjel De Bruyckere.

BOXHILL Surprised everyone and possibly even themselves with the considerable tally of points they amassed in their first six games. Just as well they did do well at this stage.

For with a slide now in evidence, they'll find it much harder for the rest of the season to equal or emulate their achievements over the first half of the season.

Have plenty of fighting spirit and staying power but lack class and none of the galaxy of newcomers they have brought from overseas so far have proved any real improvement on the players who brought them back upstairs.

Player-coach: John Brown.

## FITZROY UNITED

The "Yo-Yo" side of State League and First Division soccer they always seem to promise so much and achieve so little when they get back to the top flight.

They have given no indication this season they are anything more than the struggling side they were in former years and this is indeed a pity. For a strong and even moderately successful side can pull in such a measure of support it makes many others green with envy.

Only a Dockerty Cup win over George Cross has given their fans something to enthuse over and they can thank their lucky stars that the plight of Lions is likely to save them from the drop into the first division.

Player-coach: Cedo Cirkovic.

## LIONS

What can one say about Lions and their dismal record and seemingly hopeless plight without rubbing it in. The truth is that the transfer of their best players over the past two years with two or three others returning to Europe has taken its toll and left them with a squad who are not good enough to ensure their survival in State League soccer.

Only a near miracle can now pull them clear and only consolation they are likely to get is the strong possibility they will improve on their first half - of - the - season showing.

Player-coach: Miroslav Litwin.



Mike Kovacek, the Victorian and Croatia goalie, jumps high to save a header from England FA striker Chris Chilton at Olympic Park, recently. Marjan Lopatic, the Victorian and Footscray J.U.S.T. mid-field player, looks on.

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# METRO BATTLE

By GEORGE YELLAND

Elwood Austria is striding remorselessly on to State League.

Following an uncertain start to the season, they have settled into a competent, ball-playing combination which is averaging two goals to one, every game.

Altona, four points behind, are the only real challengers to Austria's aroud superbility in Division One.

Altona are running hot, having won their last three games in convincing fashion.

Their reserves have sewn up the seconds competition, even at this stage of the season.

Eight points clear of nearest rivals, Sunshine City, they emphasise the strength of this club, in one of suburban Melbourne's hot beds of soccer.

Essendon Slavia recovered from an incredibly bad start to become real challengers. Last week's home defeat by Kelso City just about ended that challenge.

## FIGHTING

Yallourn, Prahran, Frankston and Springvale are fighting out the relegation battle. The Latrobe Valley club has collected only one point in the last three games.

They are sadly missing the skill of George Szabo, who's work has taken him to Tasmania.

Frankston, current wooden spooner, is dogged with bad luck.

Playing only his second game since transferring from Polonia, Cierplicz broke his leg, soon after half-time, in the relegation battle with Springvale.

Prahran, in the danger zone, gained welcome relief with an odd goal in five victory over Yallourn.

Sunshine City are first to finish draw specialists. Transfer of Bobby Pocock to Austria, robbed them of their longest serving player. He had 203 games for the club.

Another long-serving player, soon to play 200 games for Sunshine, is Albert Seenan. Twin striker with ex-Slavia player, Dave McCurry, Seenan has scored 15 goals from 14 games to become club top scorer.

Sunshine are expecting big things from two recently signed 20 year-olds, Douglas Gray and Pat McCurry.

## SIGNED

Gray originally a Newport junior, was signed from Melbourne. McCurry, brother of Dave, has just arrived from Scotland.

Manny Spiteri has been an outstanding youngster with Sunshine. His transfer to Green Gully Ajax leaves a gap which will be hard to fill.

Green Gully are making no mistake in division two. They have already booked a berth in division one, for next season.

One of the most accomplished combinations in Metro circles, they have dropped only three points and conceded a mere four goals in 14 league games.

favourite to move up with Green Gully is Mooroolbark United. The Eastern Suburbs club has had a meteoric rise and is one of Victoria's most progressive set ups.

In a fast-growing area,

it is likely to be a shining star in the soccer crown for many years.

Support is growing each week for the club which is more publicity conscious than many in State League.

Only clubs likely to challenge Mooroolbark for promotion, are Coburg United and Western Suburbs.

A little more stability in the Coburg team could put them back in top company.

Western Suburbs could be the dark horse. Brilliant tactician George Maykoussis is the team's general and they are close on Mooroolbark and Coburg's heels.

Last week's home game with lowly Moreland brought them the narrowest of victories in a surprisingly high standard match.

The tussle between Maykoussis and striker Ray Leach was a highlight.

Waverley City is a team

for the future. Building firmly on a host of junior talent and improving ground facilities, Waverley are already showing improved results.

## GOOD WIN

Their last win, at St. Albans, was a particularly fine effort.

At the bottom of the table, Brighton and Sandringham are in an almost hopeless plight.

Brighton's crushing defeat of Sandy lifted them off the bottom but made relegation for both clubs a solid prospect.

Heidelberg dominates both senior and reserves ladders in division three.

The senior side is now three points clear at the top, with Croydon, Corio and Brunswick Athena likely contenders to join them in promotion.

North Carlton Olympic and Park Rangers are handily placed for any slip by the teams between them and the top.

Croydon held leadership for most of the first half of the competition but successive defeats by Heidelberg and St. Kilda have seriously jeopardised their promotion chances.

East Melbourne Helvetic, without a win after fourteen rounds, are virtually doomed to relegation.

Maribyrnong Triestina, four points behind Chelsea, are in a serious position and look likely to drop into bottom company.

## UNPREDICABLE

Fourth division provides the most unpredictable competition. Week after week the lead changes hands and it would take a bold forecaster to suggest the promotion pair.

Newport are showing fine form at the right time. Victorious in their last three outings, with a goal tally of 15-4, they are now, outright leaders by one point.

Five teams have held top position so far. South Yarra, Bayswater, Eltham and Clayton are all in with a chance of promotion.

Even Melbourne University and Broadmeadows City have an outside chance. It all adds up to an exciting competition.

South Yarra, currently in second spot, have their best opportunity of starting the long haul back to higher company. Clayton and Eltham are unpredictable. Either could make the grade or finish well down. Bayswater, with the best defence in the league, are determined to move up.

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# SAVED



Welsh skipper Arfon Griffiths (right) heads goalwards but Auckland goalie John Morris saves. Wales beat Auckland 1-0 last week.

## Mielzcarek - the Jones and Davies

Soccer News asked soccer writer Fred Villiers to take a light-hearted look at Welsh football. Villiers could not spell LLANFAIRPWLLGWYN-GYLLGOGERYCHWYRNDRBWLMLANTYSILIOGOGOGOCH, had not heard of Dylan Thomas, but he made a brave attempt at getting to grips with Soccer in the valleys.

The Welsh are very good at being Welsh. Professional in fact. Much better at it than the Scots at being Scottish or the Irish at being a nuisance or the English on being anything at all.

It is such a full time job being Welsh — wearing those black hats and eating leek soup — that it's a wonder the Welsh find time for football at all.

Most of them don't of course. They play rugby. Those who have the sense to play soccer are the rebels, the non-conformists.

The point is a bit of a shaker. If the sane ones wander around in shawls with chimneys on their heads, what must the ones who don't conform be like?

A glance at some of the great Welsh players of the past does nothing to dispel the gloom. But the red devil you know is better than the red devil etc. etc...

### Limelight

First off, you must rid yourself of the idea that all Welshmen are called Davies or Jones. On the programme, yes. But there's a very good reason.

By the time they get to the stage where they are in the public limelight most Welshmen are in

either financial or marital trouble. By calling everyone Jones or Davies you confuse the opposition, both legal and sporting.

For instance, one of the greatest inside forwards Wales has every produced, known to you as Ivor Jones was actually Ivor Allchurch.

He was gorgeous was our Ivor in the days when the inside forward was an artist who wouldn't dirty his boots by scoring goals.

### Delicate

A modern Glyndwr, he sent his passes out like raiding parties deep into English territory without once disturbing the golden glory of his hair.

Only Allchurch could fall over the ball one minute and recover the next to glide past a defender and push out a pass so delicate Tiny Tim could have brought it under control.

Another famed inside forward was Derek Tapscott. Dark as Allchurch was fair, nuggety as Ivor was lean. Tapscott was a pit pony in former life.

He liked work better than we like beer. He began running at the first peep of the whistle and, some say, continued running on the spot right through half time so as not to lose the rhythm. Could be. Nothing is beyond a man who insists on the penalties for some strange reason.

It was one way of getting him out of goalkeeping Jack Kelsey's hair, who was not only a Welsh cap but also an Arsenal clubmate. Some people are born lucky.

I am told that a defender in this present side, Mielzcarek is even better than the fabled Daniel.

That can be fixed. I want to know what a man with a Mielzcarek name is doing in a team reserved for the Jones' and Davies' of this world. That should sideline him while the inquiry is going on.



JOHNNY WALLACE . . . the Melbourne striker who scored Victoria's only goal against the English F.A. when they beat us 3-1 at Olympic Park recently.



JIMMY MCKAY . . . the Croatia international.

### Sue's a striker

There was a surprise for Dundee and Norwich City, in Portugal for the Batista Tournament, when they found a third football team at their hotel 25 miles from Lisbon — the Crystal Palace Ladies' side.

That they take the game very seriously soon became apparent.

Every morning the Palace ladies travelled to practise on a Lisbon ground.

After lunch another training session, this time in the hotel grounds.

No namby-pamby affair either.

"It was really hard training," said colleague Tommy Gallacher.

Leading the Palace squad is Sue Head, daughter of the Crystal Palace manager.

Sue's a deadly striker, too. She's the Ladies' leading marksman this season with 23 goals in 12 matches.

Jim Cook.

## FAWKNER LEAD PREMIER DIV.

By GEORGE YELLAND

Fawkner head District League, Premier Division by two clear points. From Fitzroy, with Frankston Pines in third position, four points behind the leader.

Just managing to hold premier division status, at the end of 1970, by a mere point, Fawkner have forged to the top.

A well disciplined club, they play attractive, attacking football and after nine rounds, had not tasted defeat.

At the bottom is one of District Leagues' oldest clubs, Yarraville. They, too, avoided the drop last season by only one point.

This year, they are in desperate plight. Doveton, Williamstown and East Prahran promoted from the G. Divisions are in danger of returning.

Last year's all-

conquering Kingsville, and runners up Ardeer, have not found it easy this season.

Kingsville are in the middle of the table and Ardeer could have relegation worries.

Kingsville Reserves are well entrenched at the head of the reserves ladder. East Carlton finished third in Central Division, last year.

This season they head the league, hotly pursued by East Brunswick and newcomer Postal Institute.

Reservoir, without a point but gamely fighting on, are sitting at the bottom.

In East Division, Burnley, who missed promotion on goal average, head a league containing six new sides.

Northcote and Monbulk are showing up best of the newcomers.

Army Apprentices,

with only one point from seven games, are holding the others up. Toorak United are second bottom, only two points better off.

West Division, reduced to nine clubs, is headed by Ascot United, who finished fourth in 1970.

Central Altona are in third position and having another good season.

North Sunshine have improved a lot currently they head second spot.

North Altona gained only one point from 22 games in premier division.

Relegated to West Division they are again in bottom position and have collected only one point so far.

Clubs which struggle against adversity as they have done deserve credit for fighting on and help wherever possible.

Much good football is being played in District competition and clubs are deservedly getting bigger and better support.

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• GEORGE YELLAND takes a serious look at our league set-up and says . . .

# LET'S FORM VICTORIAN LEAGUE

Australia's National Soccer League is close to birth.

Time is right for the V.S.F. to take stock and decide what is best for the future of soccer in this State.

Suggestions are that a number of the best equipped clubs in Metropolitan circles be promoted or invited to complete the State League when it is depicted by formation of the National competition.

Perpetuation of the myth that State League is something apart from the game played in metropolitan, district or junior circles can only harm the future of the game.

Soccer must unite in Victoria. Unity is strength.

Strength is an A.1 priority for future development.

The terms, "State League" (which was never more than a metropolitan competition) and "metropolitan League" (which was far more a State competition) should be dropped.

The competition should

be called the Victorian Soccer League.

The remains of State League, plus top clubs of Metropolitan Division one, should form the first division of the new league and so on down the line.

Four or six new clubs could then be brought into Division Five.

Well organised, substantial clubs, like Hamlyn Rangers and Bell Park from Geelong, merit, and would welcome, inclusion.

## WASTED

Time effort and cash have been wasted, to Soccer's detriment, in perpetual differences and pulling in opposite directions by State and Metropolitan competitions. At the same time, promotion and relegation are maintained between them.

This highlights the stupidity and futility of maintaining separate existence.

Surely the economics, administration and control of soccer would be

much more satisfactory as a single competition.

In recent years, Victoria's major Sunday soccer competition, the District League, has shown signs of maturity and stability.

It is time they were brought into the V.S.F. fold and had some say in soccer administration.

Some of the clubs have big followings and are financially sound.

This may be soccer's last chance to establish itself as a united, progressive sport in Victoria.

Its administrators must think and act in a single-minded manner.

The game's future development must be the sole aim. Club bias and personal advancement must give place to this important objective.



Heads to it . . . Chris Garland, the England FA and Bristol City striker, beats Fabian Juhasz, Victorian and Melbourne defender, in a heading duel at Olympic Park last month. Dan Lukic, Victorian and JUST mid-fielder, runs in on the right.

## A NEW DEAL FOR PLAYERS

The Victorian Soccer Federation wants to register players in three classifications next year.

They are:-

Amateur  
Non amateur  
Apprentices

Mr. John Gorton, Federation chairman, in his half yearly report, told the board of management that this is the first positive step to place the status of players on a more orderly and rational basis.

At present all players are registered with the V.S.F. without any classification and are bound to the clubs in whose name they are registered.

The new classifications will enable clubs to enter into properly enforceable contracts with their non-amateur players and this will lead to a more satisfactory relationship being established between the clubs who wish to be engaged in semi-professional or professional soccer.

Amateur players will be free at the conclusion of a season to play with any club they like.

The introduction of the apprentice scheme will allow clubs to encourage their more talented juniors to develop them.

This would ultimately eliminate the importation of players from overseas to play in our senior league.

"Players who frequently not only break the laws of the game but show dissent of the referees' decision, should be dealt with by the clubs before their conduct becomes the subject of tribunal hearings.

"Clubs should not rely

upon the tribunal to be the protectors of soccer from abuse by players," Mr. Gorton said.

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